

REMARKS

Claims 28-46 were pending at the time of, and were considered in the Office Action. The Office Action rejected claims 28-31, 33-36, 38, and 40-45 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,123,024, to Dowd ("Dowd" herein). The Office Action also rejected claims 28, 32, 35, 39, 42, and 46 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,069,534 to Kobayashi. Finally, the Office Action rejected claim 37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Dowd standing alone. The present Amendment cancels claim 29, and amends claim 28, as shown above.

Claim 28 has been amended to recite "providing a virtual ground at the first terminal of the transistor device," which was recited in claim 29 of the original application. Applicant respectfully submits that neither Dowd nor Kobayashi shows or suggests a virtual ground at the "first terminal of the transistor device" recited in claim 28. To the contrary, Dowd places capacitor 12 between the inverting input to amplifier 8 and the emitter of transistor 14, while Kobayashi appears to provide no virtual ground in his circuit at all. Because of the absence of at least these features, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited art fails to anticipate claim 28.

For much the same reason, independent claim 35 is also patentable over the cited art. Claim 35 recites "a transistor device ... arranged to maintain [its] emitter at a predefined voltage;" Again, Dowd failed to maintain the emitter terminal at transistor 14 at a predefined voltage, instead varying the emitter voltage according to the integral of the error voltage of the feedback loop (see Dowd, column 5, lines 20-23). Because neither Dowd nor Kobayashi show or suggest at least these features, Applicant respectfully requests that the Office Action be reconsidered and withdrawn.

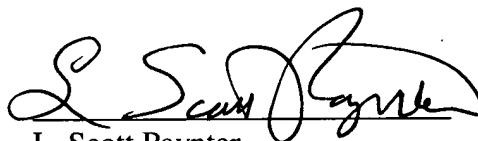
Likewise, among other things claim 42 recites, "operating a transistor device in a common base or common gate configuration to provide a virtual ground at a first terminal of the

transistor device;” Neither Dowd nor Kobayashi show or suggest “operating ...virtual ground ...,” so Applicant requests that the rejection be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Each remark presented herein as to matter from a particular claim that is not shown in the cited art applies equally to the claims depending from that particular claim. In addition, Applicant reserves the right to present evidence of prior invention to swear back of references subject to the procedure of 37 CFR §1.131, and to present subject matter cancelled from the claims in a continuing application without prejudice.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that claims 28 and 30-46 are in condition for allowance. Prompt action to allow this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. Scott Paynter", written over a horizontal line.

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